(ii) Increasing Compensation Package for Sterilization was introduced in Oct'06 and the payment to accredited private providers has been increased markedly from Rs. 400 to Rs. 800 in 8 EAG States and, Rs. 100 per case if private doctors perform sterilisation in public institutions in both EAG and non-EAG States provide services.

(iii) Specific action points/strategies have been incorporated in the States project Implementation Plans (PIPs) under NRHM from current year to address the upgradation of Family Planning Services and increase the number of providers.

Making CGHS user friendly

1447. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that notwithstanding Government's resolve to make CGHS user friendly the position in CGHS dispensaries in Delhi., particularly in outlying areas, is far from satisfactory in so far as cleanliness of toilets, other that those for staff and other services are concerned;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is hardly any surprise visits by senior officers to check the attendance of doctors and staff and for the availability of medicines in time; and

(c) whether Government would ensure periodical check and visits of the dispensaries to ensure satisfactory services to the users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Surprise inspections of dispensaries are carried out by officers from the Ministry and the CGHS to check punctuality of doctors and staff, cleanliness, etc. wherever doctors and/or staff were not found to be late in attending to their work in their respective dispensaries, Memoranda have been issued cautioning them to be punctual in attending to their duties.

CGHS has accepted, in principle, the recommendation of Staff Inspection Unit of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to outsource sanitation/ cleaning work in dispensaries and will be implemented gradually, as and when posts of safai karamcharies start falling vacant. All India CGHS Employees Association has, however, opposed outsourcing of sanitation/cleaning work in dispensaries and have threatened to proceed on strike.

AIDS affected children and their education

†1448. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an estimate of number of children aged between 4 to 15 suffering from HIV/AIDS, has been made;

(b) if so, the details of the number, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether all these children are receiving education at schools;

(d) whether Government have received complaints regarding discrimination against them in schools; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government to address these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) As per annual sentinel survey, it is estimated that around 70,000 children below 15 years of age are HIV infected. Out of them about 22000 children have been registered under Pediatric ART Initiative and 6261 clinically eligible children have been started on ART. The educational status of these children is not known.

(d) Reports of discrimination against 34 school children. were received from the districts of Kottayam, Kerala; Taran Taran, Punjab and Sangli, Maharashtra in 2007.

(e) All the 34 school children have been readmitted to the schools following intervention by the state Departments of Education and State AIDS Control Societies.

Boosting of medical tourism

1449. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is very fast becoming the pharmacy of the world and medical tourists are flocking to India;

(b) if so, what is preventing to provide basic health care services to prevent diseases;

(c) whether it is also a fact that strong dose of reform is required to boost this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Large Numbers of Foreigners are coming to India for medical treatment as Private Health care in India is undergoing a fast change by improving super specialty facilities. At present foreigners coming for medical treatment in India are being granted tourist visa by Indian Missions abroad. Tourist visa is non-convertible, non-extendable and is valid only for six months. This causes unnecessary harassment to the foreigners who have come for medical treatment and require to live in India for more than six months. Therefore, to facilitate foreign nationals, who wish to utilize specialized medical health care facilities, to come to India for medical treatment, a new visa category "Medical Visa" [M-Visa] has been introduced.